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INTRODUCTION

This bulletin records the work of the Department of Agriculture in North Mamprusi during the years 1932 to 1936. It is divided into two parts: the first contains a description of the indigenous system of agriculture and the survey methods followed in studying it; and the second gives the results of preliminary trials, as an introduction to future experimental work.

North Mamprusi comprises three political sub-districts, Navrongo Area, Zuarungu Area, and Kusasi (Bawku) Area. These areas have a number of features in common, the most important from our point of view, being a dense population, and a primitive system of "fixed" agriculture. The most densely populated area is Zuarungu, where a shortage of cultivated foods is a fairly common experience. It was mainly to find the causes of this food shortage and to suggest ameliorative measures that the Department of Agriculture commenced preliminary survey work in this area in 1932. Unfortunately, owing to shortage of staff, the work had to be suspended in 1933, with a consequent loss of continuity. It was recommenced in 1934, however, and the scope was enlarged to admit of a certain amount of experimental work at Zuarungu and Navrongo, and survey work in the Navrongo Area. Some of the survey work was also repeated in Zuarungu Area to supply confirmatory information upon 1932 data, particularly yield data, since it was known that 1932 was an exceptionally favourable season. In 1935 the experimental side of the work received more attention; similarly in 1936. And in 1936 survey work was extended to Zebilla, in Kusasi Area. Zuarungu has been the headquarters throughout.

We have now obtained a fairly detailed knowledge of local agriculture and a certain amount of experimental evidence upon the best way in which it can be improved. All our experience points to some form of "mixed farming" (1) as a solution of the problem. Mr. F. A. Stockdale, C.M.G., C.B.E. (now Sir Frank Stockdale), Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State, visited Zuarungu and Navrongo in December, 1935, and recommended (2) the expansion of our work to enable us to investigate more